

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The system controller 20 receives detection signal from the sensors 31, 32, and 33 individually. Further, the system controller 20 performs control for executing preliminary operations for image pickup when all the sensors 31, 32, and 33 are detect contact or approach of a hand of a user, i.e., when all the sensors are brought into a state for detecting contact or approach of a hand of the user to make image pickup operation. Note that the preliminary operations include at least electric conducting to the CCD 7 and processing of each of the ~~AR~~ AE processing section 11, AF processing section 12, and AWB processing section 13, i.e., processing of each of automatic exposure, automatic focus adjustment, and automatic white balance adjustment.